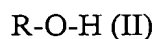


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the production of an aromatic carbonate comprising

5 (i) tempering an aromatic hydroxy compound of formula (II)



wherein R represents an aromatic group, for a period t₂ at an average temperature T₂ in a device by bringing it together with an amount B₁ of component d) and an amount C₁ of component e), to produce an activated aromatic hydroxy compound

10 wherein component d) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds of Ru, Os, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd and of Pt, and wherein component e) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds of Sc, Y, La, Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Ni, Co, Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Hg, Ga, In, Tl, Ge, Sn, Sb, Bi and Pb, and

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(ii) reacting in a reaction apparatus for a time t₁ and at an average temperature T₁ the activated aromatic hydroxy compound with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of a catalyst system comprising an amount B₂ of component (d) and an amount C₂ of component (e) to produce an aromatic
20 carbonate said t₂ being less than 50% of t₁ and said T₂ being at least 15 °C below said T₁.

2. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the amount B₁ is 50 to 100 % of the total weight of B₁ and B₂ and the amount C₁ is 10 to 100 % of the
25 total weight of C₁ and C₂.

3. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the reacting in a reaction apparatus takes place in the presence of a solvent.

30 4. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the catalyst system additionally contains at least one component selected from the group consisting of bromides, bases and solvents.

5. The process according to Claim 1 wherein t_2 is less than 35% of t_1 .

6. The process according to Claim 1 wherein T_2 is at least 25 °C below T_1 .

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7. The process according to Claim 1 wherein tempering is carried out at a constant temperature T_2 .

8. The process according to Claim 1 wherein tempering is carried out at a temperature-time profile with a monotonic positive gradient.

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9. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the temperature of the tempered aromatic compound at the end of (i) differs from the temperature of the tempered aromatic compound at the start of (ii) by less than 5 °C.

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10. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the aromatic carbonate is diphenyl carbonate.

11. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the process is carried out continuously.

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12. The process according to claim 11, wherein the mass stream that flows through the second device is less than 75% of the mass stream that flows through the reaction apparatus.

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